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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Recommendations of Fitch Committee

1. I am informed that you reserved decision at the USIB meeting of 21 March 1962 with regard to the recommended revision of NSC 5438 to provide for informing members of the Intelligence Board and their representatives working on the Weekly Survey of Cold War Crises with information on U. S. Government plans including covert operations which might have a bearing on cold war crises and which might stimulate adverse reaction by some foreign nations.

2. Insofar as the activities of the Clandestine Services are concerned, adoption of this proposal would increase considerably the number of persons made privy to most secret operational plans, with consequent increase in security risk.

3. The departments and agencies most directly concerned with these matters are already informed at the policy level of these plans through the operation of the NSC 5412 Special Group. As an alternative to the Fitch recommendation, I suggest that the DCI and the Special Group determine those instances in which proposed Clandestine Services operations should be referred to the USIB or to a select committee of USIB for the providing of estimates or for other necessary purposes which may be peculiar to a single situation.

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Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)

DDP/DCI [redacted] Lang (22 March 1962)

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